

POPULAR OUTCRY FOR STRONG NAVAL MUST BE HEEDED

Demand Results From
Continuous Anti-Ger-
man Agitation.

TORY NEWSPAPERS ARE INSISTENT

England Looks Doubtfully Upon
Kaiser's Willingness to Enter
Upon Agreement for Limit-
ing of Naval Expenditures.
General Conscription Plan
Arouses Bitter Protest.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]

London, March 8.—With Parliament out of function for a short respite before what promises to be an exceedingly exciting session, political life here is dormant, as far as domestic questions are concerned, but the foreign situation is followed with great interest, and astute agitators have not missed the opportunity to make use of the rather alarming European situation to promote their own plans.

"Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes" (I fear the Greek's bearing gifts) may be said to express pretty accurately the spirit in which the English people have accepted the German government's willingness to enter upon the naval agreement originally proposed by Winston Churchill for the purpose of limiting the naval expenditures of the two countries, and it is exceedingly doubtful whether even the present Liberal government will be able to hold out against the popular cry for a strong navy, which has resulted from the continuous anti-German agitation of the Tory press.

Anglo Press Aroused.

Lord Roberts has, of course, eagerly seized upon the fact that Germany has planned to increase her army to push forward with renewed energy his agitation for general conscription in England, and no day passes when we are not told that it is our simple duty to our ally across the channel to organize the British army on Continental principles. On this point he has had the faithful assistance not only of the whole English press, but also of several influential French papers like the Echo de Paris, which hails with delight the field marshal's declaration that England must have conscription in order to be able to determine the balance of power in Europe.

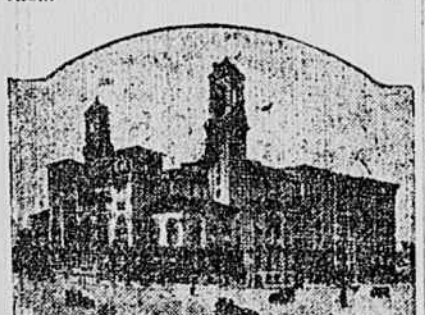
In the meantime the fact remains that the majority of the English people are firmly opposed to conscription. If no better argument is found in favor of it than that this country must have it in order to place a strong military force at the disposal of the French, whoever they are, it is to go to war with Germany, much water will surely run underneath the bridge before every male Englishman will have to spend two years of his youth in barracks.

Unselfishness in politics or in anything else, for that matter, has never been a very prominent feature of the English character, and the idea that this country should take up arms or prepare to be ready to do so for any other country but John Bull's own.

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Islands is utterly absurd. British

patriotism will always be strong enough to bring considerable sacrifices to defend the country itself, but until the territorial army has been manifested proved a complete failure, not even the far-fetched Lord Roberts will be able to convince the English people that they must adopt conscription to save their country.

Not Happy Over Canal.

To say that the British are looking forward to the coming opening of the Panama Canal with anything like a feeling of joy would be to show an utter disregard of truth. Some of us may feel a tinge of admiration because our American cousins have succeeded where Frenchmen failed, but there is no doubt that the English people will feel a tinge of admiration because of the Englishmen who take any interest in the canal would not feel the least bit sorry if landholders or unconquerable difficulties would prevent the forced Uncle Sam to give up the job when half-finished.

The fact is that the opening of the big canal will necessitate considerable changes in John Bull's business methods and routine, and nothing is more unpleasant to the average Englishman than to be forced to form new habits. In fact, the English people have never been eager to break new paths, which accounts for Germany getting ahead of England in many new markets, and they like nothing better than a business which runs in an old groove.

With the Panama Canal an accomplished fact, however, something has to be done, and we are just beginning to hold meetings to discuss its possible effects on British trade and overseas markets.

At the first of these meetings, recently held under the auspices of the Royal Statistical Society, the question was raised whether England would be able to maintain her supremacy, and Professor Jacobin H. Hutchings of the University of California, in the most polite and amiable manner, succeeded in convincing many unpleasant truths, which have given rise to considerable anxiety since then.

As a matter of fact, there is a general feeling of uneasiness among the British merchants, with their love of conservatism, and their confidence in the future of the country, that they will not be able to compete with America, which has already advanced them out of the West Indian market.

Balkan Prince in England.

It was wrongly stated the other day that the Crown Prince of Serbia had come to England and had been invited to dine with Mr. and Mrs. Asquith before going to make his official call on King George V. A Serbian prince, however, had indeed come to this country, but he is only a nephew, not a son, of King Peter, and is a very charming young man indeed, who may have the salvation of the dynasty of "Black George" if he should cause the direct heirs of King Peter to fall in the war against the Turks.

The young Balkan prince has come to this country to finish his education at Oxford, where it is hoped, not by Queen Mary, but by his own relatives, that he will make friends with the Prince of Wales, and thus help to heal the rift which has existed between the English and Serbian courts since the assassination of King Alexander and Draga.

It is true King Edward, after some years, permitted a return to diplomatic intercourse between this country and Serbia, but the relations have never been cordial, and Prince Paul hopes to be the means of removing the stigma upon Serbia, beginning with the Prime Minister, he is not going so badly. Having spent his life in Paris, Prince Paul is a charming young fellow, and has nothing of the Serbian about him.

The suffragettes, or at least the militant section of them, have become so numerous that it is by no means unlikely that the suggestion made in the House of Commons by Sir A. Marchant just before the close of last session to expatriate them as a means of last resort will not be adopted.

When the suggestion was made there was an outburst of laughter in the House, but since then their outrages have been so numerous that many people are now of the opinion that a deportation alone will not deter them from their criminal conspiracy to defeat the administration of the law.

The present way of the authorities in dealing with them in the most absurdly lenient manner is absolutely ineffective to everybody, and everywhere the clamor for sterner measures is raised.

Women always did despise weakness in men and respect strength, and in this regard even the militants have not ceased to feel as women.

Clearing-House Statement.

New York, March 8.—The statement of the actual condition of clearing-house banks and trust companies for the week shows that they held \$3,374,220 reserve in excess of legal requirements. This is an increase of \$64,000 from last week. The statement follows: Actual condition—

Loans, \$2,500,000; decrease, \$2,500,000.

Specie, \$2,500,000; decrease, \$2,500,000.

Legal tenders, \$2,500,000; increase, \$2,500,000.

Total deposits, \$1,000,000; increase, \$2,500,000.

Clearing-house cash reserve, \$100,000,000.

Trust companies cash reserve in vault, \$50,000,000.

Excess lawful reserve, \$3,374,220; increase, \$64,000.

Trust companies reserve with clearing-house members carrying 5 per cent cash.

Summary of State banks and trust companies clearing-house New York, not included.

Loans, \$7,500,000; increase, \$1,000,000.

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